

A cold day for a birthday

S. Powell <srp18407@gmail.com> **Robert** 12:44 PM, 01-28-2015

to Donald

01-28-2015

Donald:

Happy Birthday, my friend, Happy Birthday.

Hope you're not buried under six feet of snow.

I haven't seen any television coverage of the storm in the Philadelphia area but I know you were supposed to get hammered by the storm. We were just on the fringe of the storm but it's also bad here--and very cold and windy.

City Hall is not the warmest of buildings on a day like today, especially on the third floor. I have two space heaters going and a blanket over my shoulders, so life can go on.

Tax season now in high gear. Lots of 10-hour days and more coming your way.

Hope Nathan has been able to enjoy his new ice skates.

How wonderful to be 28. I was 28 in 1971. At the time I was a Visiting Assistant Professor of French in the State University of New York, College at Oswego. That was my first job after finishing graduate school. Oswego is on Lake Ontario, in the middle of the snow belt. At the time, I was living on the second floor of a big old Victorian house and by mid-winter the snow was up to the windows on the second floor of the house. That's winter!

Hope you don't have to work overtime on your birthday.

Best,

Uncle Robert

Sunday morning

Donald.Powell@checkpt.com

10:24 AM , 02-15-
2015

Uncle Robert:

Thank you for the birthday wish. I am terribly sorry for not responding to your email, I read it, thoroughly enjoyed it, intended to respond that day but got swept up in various things and proceeded to be buried under work (and nearly 75 hour workweeks) ever since. I am actually in the office now getting a head start on the week. I am the only person in the entire building, which is actually kind of nice. This past week alone, I spent 4 nights in the office past 10 PM. A schedule like that grows very tiresome.

To make matters worse, it's bitterly cold and windy here. I went over to Furey's house last night and was greeted with blizzard-like conditions when I went to leave around 11 PM. I was able to make it home but not without coming to a complete stop in the middle of the road, twice.

Nathan has been getting very good use out of his skates and we've gone to the retention pond near our house on several occasions over the past few weeks. For whatever reason, the ice there is as smooth as glass and makes for perfect skating conditions. I wished I had brought the pair of skates from the cellar with me so I could join him.

I went to the golf show yesterday in Oaks, PA with Lewis and Big Mike and had a good time. I saw some of my buddies from the "Tour" and had a good time catching up and talking about the upcoming season. One could spend \$2,000 in a place like that without even trying!

I enjoyed your recap of where you were and what you were doing at 28. I frequently think about what it would be like to just pick up and take a job in a new place and how much fun it would be to meet new people and experience what's going on somewhere else. Both you and my dad have spent

your fair share of time living away from home and I find the details to be very intriguing. I often feel like I'm stuck in some sort of day-to-day

cycle where I control very little of how I spend my time. The good news is that I've got a lot of time ahead of me and I intend to make good use of it.

The other day my boss made a reference to Poirot (sp.) that I'm certain he didn't expect anyone to understand until I responded, with proper pronunciation, "are you talking about Hercule Poirot?" He almost fell out of his chair and we had a good laugh about it. A few days later he mentioned something about another character from a television show and I commented that it sound like he was talking about the show with Hyacinth, which he was, and we had another good laugh about the fact that I was able to draw that connection. Funny how things like that come up from time to time.

Hopefully your space heaters and blanket are doing the trick if you're in City Hall. It can't be much longer until it starts to warm up and before you know it Spring will be here.

Talk to you soon.

Donald

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Sunday in the office

S. Robert Powell <srp18407@gmail.com>

12:21 PM (3 minutes ago)

to Donald

02-15-2015

Donald:

Good to hear from you.

You're the only one in your building right now, and it's only me and the cops in City Hall right now. I like people OK, but it's nice to have a whole building to one's self.

Dangerously cold here as well. Around zero with strong winds at 7 A.M. Getting up to the barn was a challenge. To protect my face and upper body, I put a small blanket over my head as I walked up through the knee-deep snow. All the birds in the barn: cold by OK. The swans are on Morrison's pond. I double-fed them yesterday because I knew that today it would be dangerous to walk over via 18 Fairway to the pond. They will be fine. The pond is down in there, sorta below the level of the wind, and I gave them several quarts of whole corn and two loaves of bread yesterday. There is a small open water section in the corner near the highway, and they are having a good time there.

All is well here. Your father and the cats, all OK. Ranger is in the cellar, so he's having a good time and warm. But in this kind of weather, you have to be very careful. One mistake and you're an ice popsicle.

Hercule Poirot and Hyacinthe. Very good. It's important that your boss see you as a lot more than just another tax expert. And your mutual interest in sports. Those kinds of things can make a big difference when an employer has to decide who gets a raise and how much and who gets a promotion.

More confidential stuff between you and me: I will be the guest on tonight's broadcast of "PA Books" on the Pennsylvania Cable Network at 7 P. M. PCN contacted me and asked me to come to Harrisburg on February 4 to their studios there so they could interview me. I went. The president and CEO of PCN (Brian Lockman) interviewed me for an hour. The interview went very well. It will be broadcast tonight on 145 cable systems in Pennsylvania, serving 3 million cable homes. At the end of the interview, which was done in one take, Brian Lockman said to me: "Robert, that was wonderful. I've been doing this show for 15 years, and I'm going to ask you something now that I have never before asked another guest on this show. May I ask you to autograph these copies of your D&H DVDs?" It was a nice moment. So, if you're around a television at 7 P.M. tonight and you can access one of the PA cable systems, you'll see a familiar face at 7 P.M. If you can't access PCN on your local cable system this broadcast will be posted as a podcast on the PCN website (www.pcntv.com) for one week, beginning February 16 (which is tomorrow). I'm going to watch the broadcast tonight at the house of some friends in Carbondale. As I have said: this is between you and me. Your father doesn't know about this and I'm not going to tell him. I tried to tell him about these DVDs last October, but he cut me off as I started to tell him and he insisted on telling me something that was on his mind at the time. "Very well," said I to myself, "you've missed your chance.

I'm not going to bring up the subject of my DVD's ever again." And that was that.

The sun is now out and the winds appear to have subsided. Life can begin again.

Hope you have a productive and enjoyable day.

Best,

Uncle Robert
